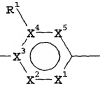
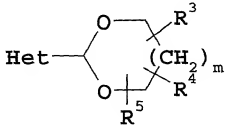
ABSTRACT

HETEROARYL-CYCLIC ACETALS

Compounds of formula (I) are described in which Het is a five or six membered heteroaromatic ring of the formula  in which one of R^1 and R^2 is optionally substituted heteroaryl and the other is optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl; X^1 is a bond, X^3 and X^4 are each independently N or C and X^2 and X^5 are independently CH, N, NH, O or S; or X^3 and X^4 are C, one of X^1, X^2 and X^5 is N and the others are N or CH; but excluding compounds in which X^1 is a bond, one of X^2 and X^5 is N and the other is NH and X^3 and X^4 are both C; R^3 represents a group $-L^1-R^6$; R^4 represents hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; or R^3 and R^4, when attached to the same carbon atom, may form with the said carbon atom a cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or heterocycloalkyl ring or a group $C=CH_2$; R^5 represents hydrogen or alkyl; and m is zero or an integer 1 or 2; and N-oxides thereof, and their prodrugs; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates of compounds of formula (I) and N-oxides thereof, and their prodrugs.

The compounds are TNF inhibitors and are useful as pharmaceuticals.



(I)